

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT CAIRO JIDDA JERUSALEM
KUWAIT LONDON TEL AVIV TRIPOLI FROM AMMAN 14 AUG 73 REPEATED
TO YOU

QTE S E C R E T AMMAN 4360

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DEPARTMENT PASS CINCEUR

E.O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, EG, JO

SUBJECT: EL-KHOLY VISIT: SECOND STAGE

REF: AMMAN 4229

1. SUMMARY. PM GIVES STATE OF PLAY WITH SYRIA AND EGYPT.
ASKS US UNDERSTANDING OF JORDANIAN STRATEGY AND GOALS.

2. PM RIFAI WENT OVER EVENTS SINCE THOSE DESCRIBED REFTTEL.
AS MEETINGS WITH EL-KHOLY WENT ON LATTER SAID THERE WAS NO USE
DISCUSSING RETURN OF FEDAYEEN TO JORDAN AS IT "NO LONGER
RELEVANT." EQUALLY DISMISSED EASTERN FRONT AND UNIFIED
COMMANDER, SAYING JORDAN CORRECT IN SAYING THERE NO USE FOR
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EASTERN FRONT AS LONG AS COUNTRIES NOT UNITED ON PLANS AND
POLICIES AND WHILE COUNTRIES LIKE JORDAN NOT READY FOR
CONFRONTATION. EL-KHOLY WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT SADAT ALONE,
AGAINST ADVICE ALL ADVISERS, HAD DECIDED ON DIPLOMATIC

BREAK. FEDAYEEN-RETURN, EASTERN FRONT, ETC., WERE THEN LISTED AS PRE-CONDITIONS FOR RESTORATION RELATIONS BUT EVEN SADAT FINALLY RECOGNIZED JORDAN WOULD NOT CHANGE BASIC POLICIES IN ORDER TO GET RECOGNITION. EL-KHOLY THEN SAID SADAT NEEDED SOME SOFTENING UP. REQUESTED KING TO PHONE SADAT. LATTER DID SO AND THERE ENSUED INOCUOUS CONVERSATION WHICH KING THOUGHT WOULD BE TPAED AND USED AT LATER DATE. (CAIRO PRESS ANNOUNCED PHONE CALL.)

3. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, EL-KHOLY SAID HE WOULD GO ON TO DAMASCUS. ASKED FOR TWO THINGS: EX-PM MUNIM RIFAI TO ACCOMPANY AND, SECOND, HUSSEIN WILLINGNESS VISIT SADAT IN CAIRO. EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD NO INVITATION FROM SADAT TO GIVE TO KING BUT THOUGHT HE COULD ARRANGE IT. KING SAID OKAY.

4. TRIP TO DAMASCUS WENT SMOOTHLY. EL-KHOLY RETURNED TO CAIRO. HE WILL TALK TO SADAT. HE EXPECTS TO SET UP TRIPARITE MEETING IN CAIRO SOMETIME AROUND AUGUST 25-28.

5. RIFAI SAID THIS ALL SOUNDED FINE BUT MUCH DEPENDED ON SADAT'S FINAL REACTION. ON BALANCE, HE THOUGHT THERE CHANCE IT WOULD WORK OUT. RIFAI SPECULATES THAT EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS ARE LOOKING FOR TWO THINGS: FIRST, A WAY OUT OF IMPENDING CONFRONTATION INTO WHICH THEY ARE DRIFTING AND, SECOND, A NEW CHANNEL TO U.S. IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE RESTORED, HE IMAGINES THAT SADAT WILL TELL HIS PEOPLE THAT NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN AT PRESENT BECAUSE JORDAN'S CONTRIBUTION TO EVENTUAL CONFRONTATION HAS TO BE ASSESSED. THIS WILL RELIEVE PRESSURE AND CREATE EXTENSION OF CEASES-FIE DURING WHICH U.S. COULD RE-EXAMINE ITS POSITION.

6. RIFAI SIAD THAT HE HAD TOLD EL-KHOLY (AND KING HAD BACKED HIM STRONGLY) THAT JORDAN WAS NOT CHANGING ITS POLICIES. IT WOULD NOT GET INTO WAR AND IT WOULD NOT CHANGE ITS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH USG. RIFAI THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE AND KING HAD MADE IT PLAIN THAT, ONCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS RESTORED, JORDAN EXPECTS EGYPT AND SYRIA TO WORK HARD ON KUWAIT.

7. RIFAI SAID HE WANTED USG TO UNDERSTAND THESE POINTS. JORDAN
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IS NOT SUCKING UP TO EGYPT AND SYRIA IN ANY SYMPATHY WITH THEIR PRESENT POLICIES OR ANTI-US KICK THEY ARE ON. INSTEAD IT IS LOOKING TO ITS OWN FINANCIAL FUTURE. IT ALSO BELIEVES THAT BY STANDING FIRM IT HAS HELPED TO SHOW SADAT AND ASSAD HOLLOWNESS OF THEIR OWN POLICIES AND, HOPEFULLY, IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEAD THEM INTO MORE PRODUCTIVE WAYS. HE THOUGHT THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT MAKE A BIT OF PRESS FUSS IF RELATIONS RENEWED BUT THAT THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND VALIDITY AND CONTINUITY OF JORDAN'S POLICIES. HE HOPED USG WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC. OF COURSE, HE CONCLUDED, ALL THIS MAY FALL APART. BROWN UNQTE ROGERS

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